

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cash control system for a business establishment having one or more cash registers, the cash control system comprising:

a safe assembly including a safe for securing cash and a currency reader coupled to the safe for determining the amount of cash received in the safe;

a central control unit configured to receive deposit information from the safe assembly and to generate and transmit deposit reports and transmit identifiers that distinguish deposit information accumulated during an accounting period before a predetermined event and deposit information accumulated during the accounting period after the predetermined event; and

a cash information server configured to receive the deposit information and identifiers from the central control unit and to identify the amount of cash collected by the business establishment during the accounting period.

2. The cash control system of claim 1 further comprising a printer with a bar code generator coupled to the central control unit.

3. The cash control system of claim 1 further comprising a MICR line reader coupled to the central control unit to read MICR line information, the central control unit configured to transmit the MICR line information to the cash information server.

4. The cash control system of claim 1 further comprising at least one additional safe assembly including a safe for securing cash and a currency reader coupled to the safe for determining the amount of cash received in the safe and wherein the central control unit is configured to receive deposit

information from the additional safe assembly and transmit  
deposit reports to the cash information server containing deposit  
5 information received from the additional safe assembly.

10 5. The cash control system of claim 1 wherein the safe is  
associated with a unique number which is included in the deposit  
reports transmitted by the central control unit.

15 6. The cash control system of claim 5 wherein the central  
control unit is configured to identify when the safe is opened  
and the cash stored in the safe is removed.

20 7. The cash control system of claim 6 wherein the  
identifiers are a sequence number and an alternate sequence  
number, wherein the central control unit is configured to adjust  
the sequence number and the alternate sequence number based on  
cash being removed from the safe.

25 8. The cash control system of claim 7 wherein the  
accounting period is a business day as identified by a store  
manager.

30 9. The cash control system of claim 8, wherein the  
predetermined event is the opening of the safe and the cash  
stored in the safe removed and wherein the central control unit  
is configured to change one of the sequence number and the  
alternate sequence number at the time cash is removed from the  
safe and to change the other of the sequence number and the  
alternate sequence number at the end of the business day.

35 10. The cash control system of claim 9 wherein the central  
control unit is configured to transmit a first deposit report  
that identifies deposit information for the business day up to

5 the time of removal of cash from the safe and wherein the  
sequence number and alternate sequence number are different on  
the first deposit report and wherein the central control unit is  
configured to transmit a second deposit report that identifies  
deposit information for the business day starting from removal  
of cash from the safe and wherein the sequence number and the  
alternate sequence number are the same on the second deposit  
10 report.

11. A method of monitoring cash deposited and removed at  
a business establishment having one or more cash registers and  
using a cash control system, the method comprising:

15 determining deposit information based on cash collected at  
a business establishment during an accounting period;

generating unique identifiers based on the accounting period  
and the cash deposit;

20 adjusting the unique identifiers when the cash deposited has  
been removed;

transmitting the deposit information and the unique  
identifiers to an off-site location; and

25 receiving the deposit information and the unique identifiers  
at the off-site location to distinguish an amount of cash  
collected by a business establishment during the accounting  
period and an amount of cash retrieved from the business  
establishment.

30 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the unique identifiers  
are a sequence number and an alternative sequence number.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the accounting period  
is a business day as identified by a store manager.

14. A method of monitoring cash deposited and removed at a business establishment having one or more cash registers and using a cash control system, the method comprising:

collecting cash at a cashier station through sales transactions;

securing some of the cash from sales transactions into the cash control system;

determining deposit information based on the cash secured; transmitting the deposit information to an off site location;

reconciling the deposit information to the collected cash based on information transmitted to the off-site location.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising transmitting the deposit information from the off-site location to corporate offices of the business establishment.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising updating a website with the deposit information and accessing the deposit information from the website.

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